

VZCZCXRO5240
OO RUEHTRO
DE RUEHTV #2522 2330427
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 210427Z AUG 07
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2845
INFO RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 4739
RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 3813
RUEHVT/AMEMBASSY VALLETTA 0196
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0559
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS BE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
RHMFIUU/CNO WASHINGTON DC
RULSJGA/COMDT COGARD WASHDC
RUFNPGJ/COMSERVFOR SIXTHFLT NAPLES IT
RHMFIUU/COMUSNAVEUR NAPLES IT
RHMFISS/CDR USEUCOM VAHINGEN GE

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 002522

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

GENEVA FOR RMA-REIMER
USEU BRUSSELS FOR FRANCIS
CNO FOR N00, N09, N3IPS, N3L, N3OP AND N3NOC
COMDT COGUARD FOR CG-3 AND CG-0941

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREF](#) [PHUM](#) [PHSA](#) [MOPS](#) [EWWT](#) [SMIG](#) [LY](#) [TS](#) [IS](#) [IT](#)
MT, SU, ER, ET, GH
SUBJECT: EMBASSY TEL AVIV CONTACTS GOI TO REQUEST URGENT
ASSISTANCE WITH DISPOSITION OF 46 AFRICAN MIGRANTS RESCUED
AT SEA BY USN

REF: SECSTATE 116313

1. (SBU) DCM Luis Moreno conveyed reftel request for assistance to Alon Ushpiz, head of the Foreign Ministry's Bureau of Coordination. (Ushpiz is equivalent of Deputy Director General to Foreign Ministry Director General Aaron Abramovich.) Following internal GOI discussion, Ushpiz informed DCM that there would likely be a "positive" response from the Prime Minister's Office in regard to the issue. Ushpiz went on to say that this "tendency to be positive" was dependent on USG responsibility for the final settlement of the migrants, and that it would be a one shot deal that would not be repeated. (Comment: The "positive" remark was perhaps an implied counterpoint to critics of Israeli refugee policy, especially mounting media and NGO pressure regarding Sudanese asylum seekers. End comment.) Ushpiz also stressed that the migrants would be held in a military base and although treated humanely, would not have luxurious quarters. However, when Ushpiz contacted the DCM later in the day, after the matter had reached the Prime Minister's office, he apologetically informed the DCM that the GOI had turned down the request. Ushpiz did not offer specific reasons why the GOI had, counter to his earlier optimism, decided not to respond positively to this request for assistance.

MINIMIZE CONSIDERED

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JONES